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25. (NEW) The manual transmission assembly as recited in claim 15 wherein said spring is in said housing of said detent mechanism.

26. (NEW) The manual transmission assembly as recited in claim 11 further including a splitter mechanism, and said detent switch provides a signal to said splitter mechanism indicating if said interlock is in said first position or said second position.

27. (NEW) The manual transmission assembly as recited in claim 13 wherein said contact surface of said detent mechanism substantially contacts said raised ramp of said interlock when said interlock is in said first position, said detent switch including a contact pin that cooperates with said exterior surface of said housing, said contact pin engaging said elevated portion of said exterior surface of said housing of said detent mechanism when said interlock is in said first position, and said contact pin engages said detent switch indicating that said manual transmission assembly is in a reverse gear or a first forward gear.

28. (NEW) The manual transmission assembly as recited in claim 19 wherein said detent mechanism is biased by a spring member, and said detent switch engages said elevated portion of said external surface of said housing when said manual transmission assembly is in a reverse gear or a first forward gear.

REMARKS

Claims 11-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Reynolds (United States Patent No. 4,974,468). Reynolds does not disclose a reverse biasing assembly including a detent mechanism that contacts an interlock, and a detent mechanism that includes a housing having an external surface with a recessed portion. Reynolds also does not disclose a reverse biasing assembly that includes a detent switch that coacts with the external surface of a housing of a detent mechanism. Reynolds discloses a compound transmission and shift control therefor. A moveable control shaft 100 has a bushing 114. When the transmission is in the first or reverse gear, control shaft 100 is positioned such that the bushing 114 engages a spring biased plunger member 114, giving the operator an indication of having selected the reverse and low speed

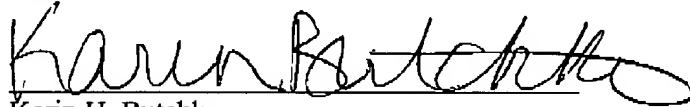
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rail position. However, Reynolds does not disclose that the spring biased plunger member 114 includes an external surface having a recessed portion, nor does Reynolds disclose a detent switch that engages an external surface of a spring biased plunger member 114. Reynolds does not disclose a manual transmission assembly including a reverse biasing assembly having a detent switch that coacts with an external surface of a detent mechanism. Reynolds does not anticipate Applicant's claims, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11, 13-16 and 19-28 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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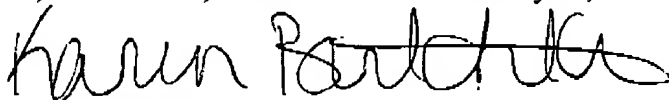
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, TC3600, Before Final, 703-872-9326 on February 24, 2003.



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

CLAIMS

11. (AMENDED) A manual transmission assembly comprising:
- a shift lever to operatively rotate an interlock;
 - a reverse biasing assembly including said interlock rotatable between a first position and a second position, a detent mechanism which substantially contacts said interlock, ~~said detent mechanism including a housing having an external surface with a recessed portion,~~ and said reverse biasing assembly further including a detent switch which coacts [coacting] with said ~~external surface of said~~ detent mechanism to indicate when said interlock is in said first position;
 - a shift rail rotatable and axially moveable by said shift lever, said shift rail rotating with said interlock;
 - a plurality of shift forks operatively engageable by said shift rail; and
 - a plurality of gears operatively connected to said plurality of shift forks; and
 - a switch to provide an indication to a splitter mechanism of when said interlock is in a predetermined position].
13. (AMENDED) The manual transmission assembly as recited in claim 11 [12] wherein said interlock further includes a contoured perimeter having an arcuate surface and a raised ramp and said detent mechanism further includes a contact surface which substantially contacts said contoured perimeter of said interlock.
15. (AMENDED) The manual transmission assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said detent mechanism is ~~biased~~ [moveable] by a spring member to allow said contact surface of said detent mechanism to substantially contact said contoured perimeter of said interlock ~~when~~ [as] said interlock [rotates] ~~is in said second position~~.
16. (AMENDED) The manual transmission assembly as recited in claim 11 [12] wherein said manual transmission assembly is in a reverse gear or a first forward gear when said interlock is in said first position.

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19. (AMENDED) The manual transmission assembly as recited in claim 21 [18] wherein said contact pin engages said elevated portion of said exterior surface of said detent mechanism [and said switch portion] when said interlock is in said first position.

20. (AMENDED) The manual transmission assembly as recited in claim 21 [18] wherein said contact pin engages said recessed portion of said exterior surface of said detent mechanism when said interlock is in said second position[, said contact pin disengaging from said switch portion].